

CURRENTS

The Newsletter of The Bahamas National Trust

Volume 12 Number 1

March 1996

One of the biggest issues that continues to challenge the Bahamas National Trust is to effectively communicate to people everything that the organisation does. The Trust is a rapidly growing organisation; its staff has grown 360% in the last fifteen years, active volunteers now number in the hundreds.

The work of these volunteers has grown to new heights. Dedicated chairmen and committee members have spawned new programs and pushed the Trust's influence into important areas - from historic monuments and archeological digs to Christmas bird counts and bird "road-kill" recovery programs; from iguana and lizard research to marine mammal protection; from tax returns and Heritage Fund investments to manning shops and membership tables; from leading Discovery Club's litter patrol to folding newsletters and licking stamps - volunteers con-

tinue to play an indispensable role in the growth and strength of our organisation.

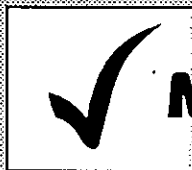
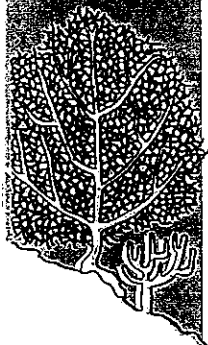
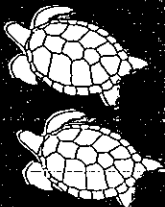
It is also important that the contribution of the staff should not be minimised. Trust staff work tirelessly,

with long and unusual hours tending to duties that defy job descriptions. The dedication of these individuals is exemplary; their work is not just a job but more a way of life; the needs and activities of the Trust dominate not only their weekdays but very often their evenings and weekends as well.

The Trust cannot do everything. It does, however, do more than most people realise. This newsletter gives an overview of many of the issues and activities in which the BNT was involved in 1995. We hope members will read it and broaden their understanding of the depth and scope of the Trust and help communicate a positive message about this vital organisation across the nation.

The Trust in 1995

37 Years of Conservation
Success In The Bahamas



Mark Your Calenders

March 21, 1996

Annual General Meeting, Government House Ballroom, 6:00 p.m. Cocktails immediately following.

March 29 - 30, 1996

International Garden and the Nassau Garden Clubs Flower Show. Open 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. on March 29 and 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on March 30.

April 19, 1996

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Dr. Jane Goodall. Details to be announced.

May 16, 1996

Public Education Meeting: "Native Flora of The Bahamas"

May 18, 1996

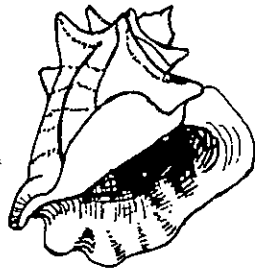
Native Flora Nature Walk

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

Supported by the Trust's Historic Preservation Committee, Louisiana State University students and professors initiated an archaeological excavation at Great Hope House and Marine Farm in Crooked Island. These two former Cotton plantations were gifted to the Trust by the Hon. Herbert McKinney, a founding member of the BNT. The plantations were established in the 1780's by British Loyalists from the United States and were occupied through the 1830's. Visible ruins at the sites include planter's houses, slave quarters, kitchens, stables and other outbuildings. Of great interest at Marine Farm is a cannon clearly marked with the insignia of King George III.

BAHAMAS ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (BEST)

For many years the BNT actively promoted the creation of an environmental commission. In 1995 BEST was formally constituted by the Prime Minister. The Commission is chaired by Ambassador Lynn Holowesko, former President of the Trust. Gary Larson, BNT Executive Director is a member of BEST's Board of Directors and is intricately involved in its setup and activities. Assistant Executive Director, Susan Larson, is chairman of BEST's National Conservation Strategy Committee. Lynn Gape, BNT Education Officer, is a member of BEST's Biodiversity Data Management (BDM) Unit which is implementing a \$250,000 United Nations Environment Program BDM project in The Bahamas. The Trust is actively involved in other areas of BEST's work. Although it is very time consuming it is hoped that once BEST is fully operational many issues now forced on the Trust will be dealt with by the Commission. It is with this end result in mind that the Trust has committed so much of its resources to helping BEST get off the ground.



BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT

The Trust is represented on several Bahamas Government advisory boards. These include Tourism, Ecotourism, Fisheries, Agriculture, Environmental Health and Wrecks & Salvage. The Trust's contact with Government in these settings provides opportunities to advise and comment on a wide range of sustainable development and conservation issues.

BIG POND

The Trust has spearheaded a multi-agency effort to clean up Big Pond on New Providence. The Bahamas Electricity Corporation, the Ministry of National Insurance, the College of the Bahamas, other adjacent schools and the Bahamas National Pride Association have been contacted. Actual clean-up should begin soon.

BLUE HOLES

The BNT continues to work with researchers Jerry Downhower and Luther Brown and with Rob Palmer of the Blue Holes Research Foundation on research and conservation for blue holes in The Bahamas. A proposal is being developed to establish Blue Holes National Park in Andros. Blue Hole protection has been sought by the Trust since the 1970's.

CONCH

Conch export was another issue that concerned the Trust in 1995. Queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, is listed on the Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and The Bahamas is a signatory to this Convention. Each signatory country must designate both a Management and Scientific Authority to review requests to trade or move, i.e. export, species that are listed in the Appendices to the Convention. In The Bahamas the Department of Agriculture is the Management Authority and the BNT is the Scientific

Authority. Scientific Authorities are asked by the CITES Secretariat to verify that the export of any particular species is not detrimental to the sustainability of national populations of that species. In 1995, when the Trust was asked to verify sustainability with regards to conch export it was unable to do so. No recent, reliable data exists to confirm that the species can withstand the levels of exportation that have evolved in The Bahamas. Therefore, based on the Trust's and the country's obligations to an international convention, applications to export conch were not endorsed by the Trust. Instead, the Trust proposed a three-year phase out schedule: in year one (1995) 250,000 lbs was established as the export limit, 100,000 lbs. for year two, and zero pounds for year three. Export houses were, however, already holding large inventories of conch and in fairness to them the Trust approved the export of an additional 115,000 pounds of conch over and above the quota for 1995. Throughout these negotiations and continuing to date the Trust has urged the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries to establish as their highest priority the need for comprehensive resource inventories in order that management decisions can be based on sound data. To date no study has been started on conch.

CONFERENCES

BNT Education and Public Relations Officer Lynn Gape attended an intensive 2-week Environmental Education course at the *Marin Headland Institute* in California. Mrs. Gape was selected by the Ministry of Education with five other instructors to attend the course. Participation was funded by Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation.

Gary Larson, BNT Executive Director, was one of a select group of thirty invited participants at the *Second International Symposium and Workshop on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas* in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the symposium was to define a new paradigm, or model, for improved identification, selection and management of marine and coastal protected areas around

the world. Mr. Larson also attended a *Marine Fishery Reserves Workshop* at the Caribbean Marine Research Center on Lee Stocking Island. Co-sponsored by the Center for Marine Conservation, the workshop focused on the success and future potential of marine "no take" reserves which are a proven conservation tool in many areas of the world. Mr. Larson and Dr. Robert Sluka presented a case study together of the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park. Participating were 25 marine reserve experts from 12 countries.

BNT President John Bethell attended the *InterAmerican Development Bank's Consultative Meeting on the Environment* in Brazil last October. Mr. Bethell participation was made possible by the Bank. IDB has aggressively sought to include non-governmental organisations in the Bank's programs.

Sandra Buckner recently attended the *16th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology* in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Mrs. Buckner, who is Deputy President and Chairman of the Wildlife Committee, spoke enthusiastically about the Symposium which was attended by 600 participants from 27 countries. A great many papers and poster presentations on all aspects of sea turtle conservation and biology filled the agenda of the Symposium, including one by David Addison and Beth Morford on a survey of sea turtle nesting activity in the Cay, Sal Bank. While there, Mrs. Buckner also attended a meeting of IUCN's Species Survival Commission/ Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

DISCOVERY CLUB

The Trust's newly revamped program for young members got off to a very successful start last September. Discovery Club is exciting and progressive, combining the best features of international youth programs into one program. Young BNT members participate in mandatory as well as elective activities, including national parks, volunteering, camp-



ing, and studies on insects, birds, the marine world, endangered species and much more.

ECOTOURISM

The Trust's 1994 Report and Recommendations on Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism by Susan Larson, BNT Assistant Executive Director, provided a springboard for the development of a national ecotourism strategy in 1995. Mrs. Larson, a member of the steering committee and chairman of the sub-committee on environment and natural resources, works directly with Angela Cleare, Tourism's Manager of Business Development, in finalising the strategy.

The World Congress on Ecotourism and Adventure Travel convened on Paradise Island in October. Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Gape and immediate Past President Pericles Maillis assisted with preparations for the Congress and planned birding tours for delegates. BNT tours, led by BNT Council member Alexander Sprunt IV, received high marks and were the most popular tours with delegates. In continuing its cooperation in ecotourism with the Ministry the BNT is organising a Birders Training Course, slated for March of this year.

EDUCATION

The Trust's Education Office focused on endangered species in 1995 following a decision to develop educational materials based on themes each year. Outputs included a poster, fact sheets and slide program. Ecosystems are the focus for 1996. The Trust's educational materials are used increasingly by teachers and students. Public Education Programs, held monthly for BNT members and the general public, included a great variety of topics and issues in 1995, including: biology and conservation of mangroves, insects, fragile ecology of small islands,

and the use of marine parks for grouper restoration.

FINLEY CAY

Finley Cay, an extremely important nesting cay for White-crowned pigeons in The Bahamas, is currently up for sale. The Trust's Wildlife Committee has indicated that it would give its full support to any fund raising efforts in an attempt to acquire the Cay.



GAME BIRDS

This sub-Group of the Wildlife Committee continues to monitor white-crowned pigeon populations annually. Members visited Finley Cay, Iglemalis Rock, the Schooner Cays, Big Green Cay, and the Grassy Cays as part of their monitoring efforts. Double visits were made to some sites to check on effects of Hurricane Erin. The reports were positive enough to record 1995 as a good year for the number one game bird in The Bahamas. Members should know that summer banding/scouting trips are made possible by generous contributions of volunteer Committee members. The Sub-Group is currently discussing a possible meeting on white-crowned pigeons in conjunction with the August Conference of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology.

GRANT PROPOSALS

Gary Larson has been working on a major grant proposal to the Multi-lateral Investment Fund (MIF) managed by the InterAmerican Development Bank. MIF/IDB officials were very impressed with the work of the Trust and are actively seeking ways to develop financial assistance to the Trust.

Mr. Larson also prepared a workshop grant proposal for the development of the "Bahamas Strategy for Environment & Development." This report, accepted in principle by Government, is being used in the development of a National Conservation Strategy. Susan Larson is spearheading the grant proposal for trail

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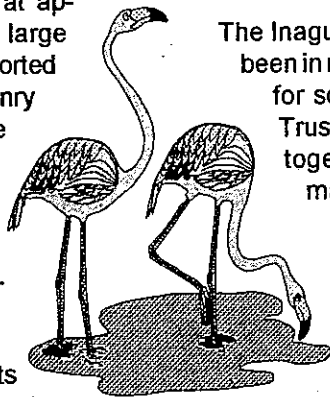
News From Our

Inagua National Park

Reports for 1995 on the nesting colony of flamingos in Inagua were good. There were two major rookeries and the young flamingos hatched successfully. Current estimates put the population of the colony at approximately 60,000. A large colony of flamingos was reported in Mayaguana. Warden Henry Nixon is following up the report to try and find out if the colony nested and produced young. Anyone having information regarding this should call or write the BNT office.

The Trust is continuing its tradition of Nixon wardens at the Inagua National Park with the addition of Casper Burrows, (Henry Nixon's nephew) to our staff. Casper has been working with Jimmy and Henry in the park since he was young boy and has always wanted to be a warden. The Trust is delighted to have Casper join the team.

The Inagua National Park, Union Creek and the BNT wardens in Inagua were featured in a special "Tourism Today" produced by The Counsellors Ltd. The show aired last September on ZNS Television. A copy of the show is now part of the Trust video library and can be borrowed by members for viewing.



The Inagua National Park has been in need of a new vehicle for some time now. The Trust's jeep has been held together with a variety of materials, the mechanical skills of our wardens, and sometimes old fashioned prayer. The Trust was overjoyed to learn that Morton Bahamas Ltd. has

agreed to donate its General Manager's truck to the Park and even more delighted that it is to be an ongoing arrangement between the Trust and Morton. The BNT and Morton Bahamas Ltd. have worked cooperatively together for many years and this recent donation supporting

the work of the Trust in Inagua emphasizes the commitment Morton Salt has not only to the people of Inagua but to the island's natural heritage as well. We know that all BNT members join us in extending a sincere thank you to Morton Bahamas Ltd.!

Grand Bahama Update

A new executive staff position, Regional Director/Grand Bahama, was created last year and very ably filled by Robert Moher. This move was designed to strengthen linkages between BNT Headquarters in Nassau and Grand Bahama as well as provide further support to the development of our three national parks on the island.

Prior to accepting the position in Grand Bahama Rob Moher was Research Officer at the International Development Research Center in Canada. He "returned" to Grand Bahama (as he taught at Discovery School in Freeport several years ago) eager to tackle the many challenges facing the Trust in the Grand Bahama region.

More detailed visitor record-keeping revealed impressive data for parks on Grand Bahama in 1995. The Rand Nature Center received 4,500 visitors from 28 countries; Lucayan National Park's visitors log recorded 6,250 signatures for the year. During peak tourist times over 100 visitors are found in the park every day. Extrapolation of these figures suggests actual visitors to Lucayan National Park may have topped twelve thousand!



Inagua National Park Wardens James Nixon, Henry Nixon and Casper Burrows pose with their new truck from Morton Bahamas Ltd.

National Parks

Volunteer contributions to parks and protected areas on Grand Bahama resulted in the construction of a shadehouse for a native plant nursery, improvements to the flamingo pond, clearing undergrowth from trails and maintaining the bridge and boardwalks.



Rob Moher - BNT Regional Director/Grand Bahama

The BNT also participated in an Oil Spill Drill co-sponsored by BORCO and South Riding Point Limited to ensure disaster preparedness in the Grand Bahama area. The drill was a success as it exposed the industrial community to a number of techniques currently in use worldwide. The Trust on Grand Bahama was approached by Minister of State David Thompson to discuss ways of increasing awareness and sensitizing local government officials to environmental protection. Many hours have been spent on this project. A manual or series of guidelines is envisioned as the end product.

There are 300 BNT members on Grand Bahama. Efforts are underway to further increase this number in 1996.

Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park

Wedding bells rang in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park in July of last year. BNT Warden Ray Darville and Evelyn Hughs were married on Osprey Cay and celebrated the festive occasion afterwards at the Park Headquarters on Warderick Wells.

Last summer was an eventful time for other reasons as well. A 52 foot sperm whale beached at Shroud Cay. The bones are now on display at Warderick Wells so that visitors can experience the immensity of this magnificent sea creature.

The opening of the crawfish season brought trouble with poachers. The warden and a handful of dedicated volunteers have spent endless hours trying to bring this ongoing situation under control. The Trust remains deeply concerned about poaching in this National Park and is exploring additional enforcement and educational opportunities with the Bahamas government to bring about a permanent solution.

Development of private islands in the park is a top issue of concern for the Trust. Very unfortunately many misconceptions about the Trust sprang up as a result of the sale and development of private islands in the park last year.

Members should know that when the park was created in 1958 private land existed within its boundaries. This fact remains true today. The Bahamas National Trust Act and the 99-year lease of the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park to the Trust gives the Trust authority and responsibility for all the land and sea within the boundaries *except privately owned land*.

The Trust recognises the right of private owners to sell and/or develop their property but it is also deeply committed to its own right to speak out on the appropriateness and potential impact of proposed developments within or affecting the park. The Trust is fortunate to have a network of private property owners in the park who share the Trust's vision and concern for the future of the park. Through this network the Trust hopes to positively influence all private property owners and maintain the ecological integrity of the park.

Emphatically, the Trust does not have two sets of standards for the park. With regard to the natural resources of the park, the Trust is committed to their conservation. In 1986 the park was declared a Marine Fishery Reserve, a designation that is in addition to its national park status. With this status the Trust established by-laws declaring the park to be a "no-take" zone. This prohibition of fishing applies to all, not to one special interest group or community at the exclusion of others. The no fishing law serves a great national purpose: the Trust is happy and proud to report that studies now show that the Exuma park is functioning extremely well as a marine fishery reserve. Research indicates that 74% of the total number of grouper eggs found within the Exuma region are produced by groupers inside the park. Eggs and subsequent larvae are being transported by currents to other areas where, upon hatching, they are being harvested by sport and commercial fishermen. Research by other scientists illustrates that the same impressive levels of replenishment exist for conch (*Strombus gigas*) as well. Conch reproducing in the park are replenishing stocks outside the park.

In simple words, while the country's fishery resources are being depleted it

(Continued on page 8)

development and interpretation for Abaco National Park with RARE Center for Tropical Conservation.

HERMIT CRABS

At the request of the Department of Agriculture the Trust was asked to comment on the exportation of hermit crabs for the international pet trade. The Trust's position is that it cannot support the export of hermit crabs since scientific evidence showing the practice can be sustainable has not been produced.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Much work was started in 1995 and continues this year to review how the Trust operates, what it is doing well and what needs strengthening. Terms of reference for committees and regional branches have been revised providing for a framework of continuity wherever the Trust is active. 1996 will see continued efforts to improve the Trust through institutional strengthening.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES):

The Trust continues to act as the Scientific Authority for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species. In this capacity the Trust reviews applications regarding trade or international movement of endangered species and is involved in the review of species listed in the Appendices of the Convention, especially species of significance to The Bahamas.



Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR):

In 1995 the Trust assisted the Ministry of Agriculture with the preparation of a grant proposal to the RAMSAR Secretariat seeking funds and technical assistance with the formal application process to the Convention. Signatory countries, upon accession, are required to

propose a suitable site for inclusion on the list of Wetlands of International Significance. The Bahamas is prepared to nominate Lake Rosa, within Inagua National Park, as such a wetland. Although the proposal was very well received by the Secretariat funding was not available in 1995. The Bahamas is sending a delegate to the RAMSAR Conference of the Parties this month and will follow-up with a second proposal for funding to the Secretariat later this year.

LEGISLATION REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT

The Trust's Historic Preservation Committee reviewed the proposed *Antiquities and Monuments Act* and submitted in draft form suggestions which would strengthen and improve it. These suggestions were accepted by the Legal Department and incorporated into the Act. Parliament is slated to decide on the Act very soon. Included in the Act is the designation of a Historic District and the Register of Historic Places developed by the BNT.

The Trust worked closely with the Department of Fisheries on the development of new *Marine Mammal Protection* legislation. Regulations regarding captive dolphin husbandry evolved out of a cooperative review of existing facilities and input from marine mammal consultants and are very appropriate. The Trust does not support the taking and/or export of dolphins from the wild as reflected in the proposed legislation. Council's position on this issue has been conveyed numerous times to Government.

Reduction in Legal Size of Crawfish and Proposed use of Air Compressors in Shallow Waters were other fisheries related legal issues worked on by the Trust in the past twelve months. In summary the Trust urged the Department of Fisheries to establish regulations based on sound conservation principles stating that such regulations should ensure

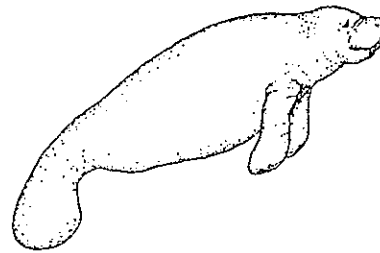
the sustainability of the species based on its biology. The Trust went on to recommend that: (1) the closed season on crawfish be lengthened to September 1; (2) the minimum legal size be maintained, monitored and controlled; (3) marine fishery reserves be established to help replenish commercially important stocks, and; (4) that air compressor be used to harvest crawfish and nothing else. The Trust will continue to work with Fisheries on these points.

LIBRARY/REFERENCE DEVELOPMENT

In order to make information housed in the Trust's Reference Library more accessible the Education Office is in the process of creating a computerised database of all books, journals, articles, and files at its Headquarters in Nassau. Monique Clarke, the Trust's Education Officer, has been instrumental in transforming an awesome task into reality.

MANATEES

The sightings of several manatees (*Trichechus* sp.) around The Bahamas in recent months has caused quite a stir. The



Trust wardens in Inagua recovered the bones of one manatee which had died in a pumping station. These bones are being forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution for species identification.

Meanwhile, the Trust's Education Office has produced a poster giving information on manatees and asking that sightings be reported to the Trust or to the Department of Fisheries.

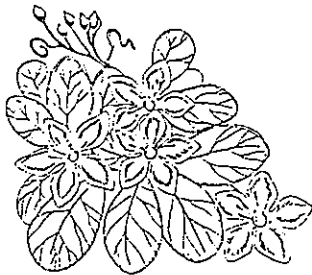
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The Trust's Executive Director, Gary Larson, continues to work with dive operators on New Providence and from other islands in exploring the feasibility of establishing marine protected areas (MPAs). Government is interested in the concept being discussed and it is hoped that 1996 will see the materialisation of such areas in The Bahamas.

MORTON'S FLAMINGO EXHIBIT

The Education Office of the Trust was asked by Morton Bahamas to create an exhibit highlighting the history of the Inagua National Park for the new Erickson Library and Museum in Matthewtown Inagua. The exhibit features pictorial panels on the wildlife of Inagua, the Trust's wardens, and the unique symbiotic relationship that exists at an ecological level between the flamingos and the salt ponds, and at the corporate level between Morton Bahamas Ltd. and the Bahamas National Trust.

NATIVE FLORA



The Wildlife Committee spawned another specialised sub-group in 1995 - Native Flora. Coordinator Malcolm Rae is mobilising recruits and projects are already underway. The group is tackling the identification of native plants at The Retreat and the "Primeval Forest," restoration work on a BNT property in Sams Souci (here on New Providence), seed propagation and participating with the College of the Bahamas in the production of a national herbarium.

ORNITHOLOGY

The Ornithology Sub-Group participated in 10 field trips during 1995, including the second Christmas Bird Count. Other activities included: compiling a monthly bird checklist for the Botanical Gardens, assisting with the study of the Bahama swallow, working with the College of the Bahamas and the Ministry of Agriculture in the "Partners in Flight" Program, and monitoring the ponds on Cable Beach Golf Course for signs of returning oil spills. In August of this year the group will be hosting the annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.

PARADISE ISLAND

Susan Larson, BNT Assistant Executive Director, remained involved in the monitoring of Sun International's re-development of Paradise Island. Concern in 1995 focused on the stability of Paradise Island Beach, which suffered heavy erosion in the last 18 months. Monthly reviews of surveys are being made to determine levels of renourishment required to stabilise the beach. With the onset of Phase II the Trust will continue to be involved in Paradise Island from an environmental assessment point of view.

RETREAT

Curator Barbara Pyfrom attended the International Palm Society's World Palm Symposium at Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Florida. Work at The Retreat included the clearing of large casuarina trees to open a cycad lawn, the planting of quite a few new palms and a survey of the complete garden was completed. Beautiful signage for the front entrance and the paths was donated by an anonymous supporter. Tours continued throughout the year and plans are in place to expand them.

GROUPE

In January of this year the Trust's Public Education Committee featured Dr. Robert Sluka of the Nature Conservancy and the Caribbean Marine Conservation Science Center. Dr. Sluka recently conducted a study in the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park with the goals of mapping the spatial distribution of groupers and benthic invertebrates among coral reef habitats in the park and examining the effectiveness of the park as a marine Fishery Reserve for the Exuma Islands.

Groupers are a commercially important species throughout the world, and they are top level predators in coral reef ecosystems. They have the biological characteristics of growing slowly to a large size, maturing late, and aggregating reproductive behavior (ie., they come together in large groups to spawn). Also, most groupers change sex from female to male later in life. Together, these characteristics make groupers highly susceptible to overfishing and as a result there have been declines in their populations throughout the Caribbean.

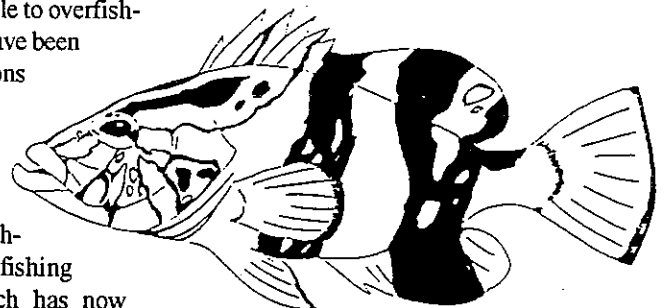
Due to increased fishing pressure the Exuma Park was declared a Marine Fishery Reserve in 1986 and all fishing was prohibited. Research has now shown that the park has become more valuable as a result. The park is successfully protecting and replenishing commercially important fishery resources such as

RESTORATION

conch, grouper, and crawfish.

Dr. Sluka examined the status of coral reefs and grouper populations inside and outside of the park. According to Dr. Sluka the Exuma Park is home to some of the most diverse and healthy coral reefs in the Wider Caribbean. Also, more and larger Nassau grouper were observed inside the park than outside.

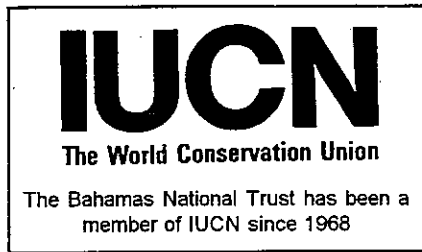
These results indicate that the Exuma Park is restoring Nassau Grouper abundances significantly to a more natural level. An estimated seventy-four percent (74%) of the total number of eggs produced by an adult female Nassau groupers in the region are produced inside the Park! These eggs, and the subsequent larvae, are being transported to areas outside of the park where they eventually hatch. It is also very likely that a certain percentage of adults are moving outside the Exuma Park,



becoming available to the fishing industry. The Trust is confident that these findings will spur greater protection of the park and its resources.

(EXUMA PARK, continued from page 5) is the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park that is helping to replenish them. This contribution the park makes to the nation as a whole is one of the driving forces behind the Trust's commitment to the park's protection (see article on page 7 for more information on grouper restoration).

The Trust is committed to increasing its educational and consensus-building efforts in the park and within the communities that are neighbors to the park. Without the support and active involvement of all concerned the Trust's efforts to fulfill its mandate in the park will be an up-hill battle. The Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park is truly a national treasure. The Trust invites all to help safeguard it.



Bahamas National Trust
P.O. Box N 4105
Nassau, Bahamas

Fall Fund Raising Successes

Two major fund raising events highlighted the fall season of the Trust. The *Fifth Annual Wine and Art Festival* took place in October. Graciously sponsored each year by Wholesale Wines and Spirits and Butler and Sands, this annual event raises close to \$10,000 each year and has introduced many people to the Trust and the gardens of The Retreat. Over 15 artists displaying several hundred pieces of work participated in the 1995 event and over 68 wines from all over the world were available for sampling. The Wine and Art Festival is organized each year by Diane Holowesko and launches the Trust's ever-increasing popular fall season.

Christmas Jollification rose to new heights under the direction of coordinator Penny Pyfrom. The weekend event which opened on Friday, November 17 with a special BNT members evening and continued on Saturday and Sunday November 18 & 19 was attended by 5,000 people and was an unqualified success.

Over 40 artisans displayed handiwork of the highest quality, many of them selling out and spending nights working fever-

ishly to replenish their stock. The Plant Sale, White Elephant, Book Sale, Children Crafts and Pony Rides provided the diversity to make the Festival a lovely family day.

A new addition to Jollification was the participation of Wholesale Wines & Spirits and Butler & Sands who joined together to offer a sampling of holiday spirits, in thematic settings that were second to none. Jollification-goers will long remember the crepes at Les Granded Cafe Marnier, delicious coffee-flavored milkshakes at the Kamora Hacienda, and the single malt whiskeys at Friskey Whiskies Grotto.

Proceeds from this highly successful event directly support the Gardens of the Retreat. Plans are already underway to install a badly needed irrigation system and a covered greenhouse for palm propagation.

The Jollification Committee has begun preparing for the 1996 Festival. Anyone interested in exhibiting or in joining the committee should call Lynn Gape at 393-1317.